

REMARKS**Pending Claims**

Claims 1-6 and 8 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 7, which has been amended, and new claims 9-12, which are identical to claims 2-5 (now canceled), are currently pending.

The amendment to claim 7 places the claim in independent form by adding all of the limitations of claim 1, from which it depended. Claim 7 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Additionally, claim 7 has been amended to make the next to last paragraph match the phraseology of the last paragraph of the claim. Specifically, the last paragraph states that "if said creator did not accept a content of said re-utilizing document information..." and accordingly, the next to last paragraph has been amended to state "if said creator accepts the contents of said re-utilizing document information...", thereby ensuring consistency in the language of the claim. Accordingly, entry of the amendments to claim 7 is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-12 have been added as new claims that depend from claim 7. Although new claims are not ordinarily permitted to be added in an Amendment filed after Final Rejection, claims 9-12 are identical to canceled claims 2-5. The reason claims 2-5 were not amended was to avoid the inconvenience of having dependent claims in the application that depend from a higher number independent claim. Accordingly, entry of the new claims after Final Rejection should be permitted in this instance since no new issue requiring further search and/or examination is presented by adding the new claims.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and receipt of the priority document.

35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

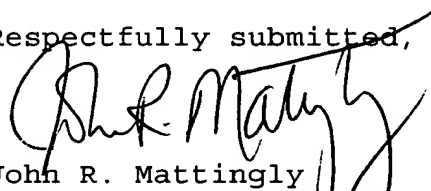
The rejection of claims 1-4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kato et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,631,495 and the rejection of claims 5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato et al. U.S.

Patent No. 6,631,495 in view of Altman, U.S. Patent No. 6,721,921 have been rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims without prejudice or disclaimer.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants contend that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and reexamination is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



John R. Mattingly
Registration No. 30,293
Attorney for Applicant(s)

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.
1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 370
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1120
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